

PhonoFun: It's Raining Words!

Phonological Awareness • Counting Words in Sentences

See our video demonstrating this activity at bipl.link/phonofun

You will need:

- Attached Pond/Cloud printout (or draw your own pond and cloud on paper)
- 30 or so “counters” (paper clips, coins, etc.)

1. **Demonstrate:** “We’re going to count whole words in sentences today, and make up a story about the rain filling this pond! I’ll start the story: ‘The water lives here.’” Have your child repeat the sentence.

Say the sentence again slowly and put down a counter on the cloud for each word (from left to right, like how we read). Have your child try, saying each word and touching each counter. They can then gather the counters and put them down for each word they say.

2. **Try it out together:** Next show your child how to bring the counters down, “raining” them down from the cloud into the pond, sliding one counter down from left to right as you say the words (“The water lives here”).

“We’ve filled the pond with some rain drops! What else will happen in our story? How full can we make the pond with all our story words?”

3. **Practice together:** Do the same with more sentences that you come up with, counting the words with counters from left to right, and “raining them down” from left to right into the pond for extra practice.

When your child is ready, they can come up with sentences for this story too! When you’re done, you can both get markers and decorate the sheet with the elements from your story!

Some example sentences you might use (from simple to harder):

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| “It rains down.” | “A frog splashes.” | “the flowers get wet.” |
| “The children jump in!” | “An alligator lives there.” | “The alligator is shy.” |
| “the children are friendly.” | “They race the pond together.” | “They all make friends.” |
| “A heron dances in the rain.” | “The pond gets higher and higher.” | “The sun comes out!” |

